

What is claimed is:

1. A method of modulating differentiation or neoplastic transformation of cells by causing said cells to increase or decrease cad-11 expression or function.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said modulation is of differentiation or neoplastic transformation of the cell.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said modulation is for reducing the invasiveness of carcinoma cells having a high metastatic potential, the method comprising increasing cad-11 expression or function in the cells.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said modulation is for preventing or terminating a pregnancy, and said method comprises decreasing cad-11 function or expression in trophoblast cells.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said modulation is for reducing the viability of carcinoma cells having a low to moderate metastatic potential, and said method comprises decreasing cad-11 expression or function in the cells.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the cells are treated with a hormone that increases cad-11 expression or function.

7. The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, wherein cad-11 function is decreased by contacting the cells with an agent that interferes with cad-11 function.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said agent is an anti-cad-11 antibody.

9. The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, wherein cad-11 expression is decreased by contacting the cells with an agent that interferes with cad-11 expression.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein said agent prevents transcription to or translation of, cad-11 mRNA.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said agent is an antisense oligonucleotide.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises an oligonucleotide substantially identical to, or which will hybridize to SEQ ID NO:1.

13. The method of claim 5 wherein said carcinoma cells are prostate tumor cells.

14. The use of a hormone for preparation of a medicament for use in the method of claim 6.

15. The use of an agent that interferes with cad-11 function for preparation of a medicament for use in the method of claim 7 or 8.

16. The use according to claim 15 wherein said agent is an anti-cad-11 antibody.

17. The use of an agent that interferes with cad-11 expression for preparation of a medicament for use in the method of claim 9 or 10.

18. The use of claim 17 wherein said agent is an antisense oligonucleotide which prevents transcription to, or translation of cad-11 mRNA.

19. The use of claim 18 wherein said oligonucleotide comprises an oligonucleotide substantially identical to, or which will hybridize to SEQ ID NO:1.

20. A method for assessing the metastatic potential of carcinoma cells comprising: contacting cells in a tissue sample suspected of containing a carcinoma with a detectable indicator capable of binding to cad-11 or cad-11 mRNA; and, determining the presence or absence of cad-11 expression in the tissue.

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21. The method of claim 20 wherein said detectable indicator comprises an oligonucleotide.

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